

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2010
Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards
Baker Donelson, Chase North Tower, 450 Laurel Street, 20th Floor,
Baton Rouge, LA 70801.

On March 26, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. the LSBEP Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards met with representatives from the LA Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners (LPC Board); the Licensed Professional Counselors Association (LCA) and the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA).

Dr. Bockrath welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, an updated agenda was presented to include "Update on steps being taken by the LPC Board to implement Position Paper on Appraisal and Psychological Testing – LPC Committee on Scope of Practice" and "Presentation and discussion of Louisiana Counseling Association proposed legislation (SB 213 by Sen. Mount, HB 742 Rep. Mills) clarifying diagnosis in Mental Health Counseling Statute – LCA Government Relations Leadership." There were no objections to the additional discussion items.

Introductions were made, present were:

Joseph Comaty, Ph.D., MP, LSBEP Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards Committee Chair
Jillandra C. Rovaris, Ph.D., LSBEP Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards Committee Vice Chair
Amy Groves Lowe, LSBEP Attorney
Jaime T. Monic, LSBEP Executive Director

Goria Bockrath, Ph.D., Chair LPC Board
Dickie Patterson, LPC Board Attorney
Laura Choate, Ed.D., LPC Board, Committee on Scope of Practice

Mike Gootee, MA, LCA Government Relations
Gary Ginter, Ph.D., LCA
David Tatman, LCA Attorney

Judith Levy, Ph.D., MP, LPA President
Darla Burnett, Ph.D., MP, LPA Past President
Jessica Brown, Ph.D., LPA Legislative & Public Policy Committee
Kevin Hayes, LPA Attorney
Gail Lowe, LPA Executive Director

Discussion Summary:

Laura Choate provided updates on behalf of the LPC Board Scope of Practice Committee noting the following: the LPC Board has revised its position statement regarding LPC appraisal activities and posted the statement on their website; the term "psychological testing" was removed from the LPC website; all licensed professional counselors with appraisal privileges were mailed a copy of the revised position statement; all other licensed professional counselors will be formally notified of position statement via e-mail and newsletter; and all open disciplinary cases related to appraisal were in the process of being closed by issuing letters of concern and providing the LPCs with copies of the new position statement, noting that from this point, the LPC Board would actively regulate LPC activities related to appraisal as delineated in the new position statement.

Dr. Comaty, on behalf of the LSBEP commended the Position Statement and the steps taken by the LPC Board, noting that it will go a long way toward the regulatory roles of both boards in a constructive manner.

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Attorney Lowe reiterated the same and requested additional information on how the LPC Board was being proactive in requesting advance documentation of training and credentials of their licensees prior to allowing them to administer certain appraisal instruments. The LPC Board indicated that that had not been addressed because they did not believe that to be an issue of concern between the boards.

Choate requested input on areas that the LPC Committee on Appraisals could be proactive in addressing concerns. Dr. Comaty indicated that perhaps more could be done at the training level, educating psychologists as well as LPC's of their role as trainers of their respective professions. Noting also the opportunity for the associations to educate professionals on this matter as well. The recommendation was duly acknowledged by all present.

Gary Gintner provided a legislative update on behalf of the LCA providing copies of Senate Bill 213, House Bill 742, R.S. 37:1103 and an oral summary explaining the intent of the proposed legislation to "clarify" diagnostic privileges of Licensed Professional Counselors.

LPA Representatives Drs. Burnett and Levy individually expressed concerns that this was not a clarification but an expansion of scope of practice; Representatives of the LSBEP (Drs. Comaty, Rovaris, Attorney Lowe and Ms. Monic) also expressed concerns that the legislation would be incorporating the exact language used to define the practice of psychology; would cause more problems and confusion for the public than it would resolve; and also that the proposed legislation ignored the current statutory limitations of LPC's under Section 1107.E(2) of the LA Revised Statutes.

Representatives of the LPC Board indicated that they believed that an LPC could diagnose any mental health disorder so long as it were within the individual training of that LPC; that the intent of the legislation was to advance privileges within the Office of Mental Health and to create what they believed to be the same diagnostic privileges as that of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker; and also opined that the legislation would only preclude a Licensed Professional Counselor from conducting "psychological testing".

The discussion was concluded at approximately 12:00 noon, without agreement on the impact of the proposed legislation.